

Andalusia, The Grotto (Nicholas Biddle Estate)
.3 mile south of State Road
Andalusia
Bensalem Township
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1248-B

HABS

PA,

9-ANDA,

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PHOTDGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY BUCKS	TOWN OR VICINITY ANDALUSIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) ANDALUSIA, THE GROTTO		HABS NO. PA-1248-B
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) .3 mile south of State Road		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1830s	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Thomas Ustick Walter (1804-1887)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This small Gothic Revival structure was built to simulate a ruin.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Gothic Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Local stone is the wall material, with cut stone hoods over the windows, door and the niche. Wood joists support the roof.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The one-bay and one-story structure measures 17'-5" X 18'-8".		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The entrance door is wood. It is constructed to appear like double doors though it is hinged on only one side. It is decorated with wood bosses which simulate nail heads, and four fake strap hinges also of wood. The door was grained to simulate oak. (see p. 2)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) There is only one interior floor space. Marble floor is laid in bands around their periphery with a diamond pattern in the center area. Walls are stuccoed and scored to simulate ashlar construction. This stucco was restored in 1974. Ceiling is narrow wood (see p. 2)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Excellent condition		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Wainwright, Nicholas B. "Andalusia, Countryseat of the Craig Family and of Nicholas Biddle and His Descendants." The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Bibliography (No.1, 1977): 3-69.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Martin J. Rosenblum, HABS, 1974; Susan McCown, HABS, editor, 1983		DATE

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from p. 1):

Windows are diamond panes in an amber color. They are leaded. North and South windows have a stone stile in the center. The roof is laid in a shed fashion, and is not visible from the ground because of the parapet. The covering is standing seam metal. There is an interrupted stone belt course on a portion of the parapet. There is a niche on the west (front) facade that holds a reproduction 19th century urn. The interior of the niche is stuccoed and scored to simulate stone. It was restored in 1974.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from p. 1):

boarding supported by joists which have beaded edges. A marble columbarium in the center of the room was installed in 1974. The door has a box lock.